AMENDMENT TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend the title of the invention as shown below:

METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR REFRESHING MEMORY TO PRESERVE DATA INTEGRITY ~~REFRESH ALGORITHM FOR MEMORIES~~

Please amend the abstract as shown below: (A clean copy of the amended abstract appears by itself on the following page)

A memory utilizes a data refresh algorithm to preserve data integrity over disturbances caused by memory programming or erase operations. The memory device maintains a counter for each memory block or sector. When a memory block or sector is erased or programmed, the associated counter is set to a predetermined value while other counters are incremented or decremented. Whenever a counter reaches a predetermined threshold value, the associated block or sector is refreshed. The threshold value is set to ensure that each block or sector is refreshed before data integrity is adversely affected by disturbances caused by repeated programming and erase operations. ~~A method and apparatus for refreshing data in a flash memory device is disclosed. A counter is maintained for each memory block. When a memory block is erased, the counter for that erase block is set to zero while the remaining counters are incremented. When a memory block counter reaches a predetermined threshold value, the associated memory block is refreshed.~~